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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING
GROUP 1761

13/c (NE)
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11/8/2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TOMOYASU NAKAMURA ET AL : EXAMINER: WONG, L.
SERIAL NO: 09/926,027 :
FILED: AUGUST 16, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1761
FOR: MASKING AGENT

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Final Office Action dated July 3, 2002, and supplemental to the Resubmission of Prior Art, filed August 7, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application **and the finality of the Office Action** in view of the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 9 and 13 as follows:

9. (Amended) An orally ingestible product lacking a bitter flavor comprising a material having at least one of an odor and a flavor other than a bitter flavor, and an agent for masking said at least one of an odor and a flavor other than a bitter flavor comprising a nontoxic salt of gluconic acid, wherein the flavor is selected from the group consisting of astringency, pungency, sourness and flavor of powdered milk, and wherein the odor is